



DAILY ENCOURAGEMENTS
Carstairs-Bancroft United Church
January 9, 2024



Photo: Our Daily Bread

TROUBLED SOULS, HONEST PRAYERS

Father, glorify your name!

John 12:28

READ John 12:27-32

Three days before a bomb blast rocked his home in January 1957, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. had an encounter that marked him for the rest of his life. After receiving a threatening phone call, King found himself pondering an exit strategy from the civil rights movement. Then prayers emerged from his soul. "I am here taking a stand for what I believe is right. But now I am afraid. I have nothing left. I've come to the point where I can't face it alone." After his prayer, there came quiet assurance. King noted, "Almost at once my fears began to go. My uncertainty disappeared. I was ready to face anything."

In John 12, Jesus acknowledged, "My soul is troubled" (v. 27). He was transparently honest about His internal disposition; still He was God-centered in His prayer. "Father, glorify your name!" (v. 28). Jesus' prayer was one of surrender to God's will.

How human it is for us to feel the pangs of fear and discomfort when we find ourselves with the option of honoring God or not; when wisdom requires making hard decisions about relationships, habits, or other patterns (good or bad). No matter what we're faced with, as we pray boldly to God, He'll give us the strength to overcome our fear and discomfort and do what brings glory to Him—for our good and the good of others.

By **Arthur Jackson**

PRAY & REFLECT

Father, please help me to face challenging things honestly and prayerfully that are for my good and will bring You glory. Amen

What experiences have prompted prayers for God to be honored? What advice would you give to others facing such situations?

SCRIPTURE INSIGHT

Jesus would enter the garden of Gethsemane on the evening of Passover Thursday, probably three days after the events described in John 12:27-32. Unlike the other three gospels, John doesn't describe Christ's anguish in Gethsemane. But he lets us know that Jesus is already tasting the sorrow coming His way. "Now my soul is troubled," Christ said (v. 27). In Gethsemane, Jesus would pray, "Not as I will, but as you [the Father] will" (Matthew 26:39). In John, he prays, "Father, glorify your name!" (12:28). Author Warren Wiersbe says that when we experience trials, there are two prayers we can pray: "Father, save me!" or "Father, glorify Your name!" As His hour of trial approached, Jesus chose the latter, praying, "What shall I say? 'Father, save me from this hour'? No, it was for this very reason I came to this hour" (v. 27). – By **Tim Gustafson**

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